(c) whether Government would regulate the appointment of all categories of employees of CSD canteens all over the country through UPSC, SSC etc.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Canteen Stores Department does not run any canteen at unit level. The Canteen at Air Force Station, New Delhi falls under the category of Unit Run Canteens. Employees of the Unit-Run-Canteens (URCs) are not sponsored by the local employment exchanges as the Unit-run-Canteens are ventures of Non-Public Funds of the local Air Force Station and are not the instrumentality of the State.

(b) According to Air Hqs, all appointments in the Unit-Run-Canteens have been done on merit on the recommendations of an independent Board of Officers. As per the Terms and Conditions of Service, the Chief Administrative Officer is the Disciplinary Authority for all employees of Unit-Run-Canteens. According to Air Hqs the suspensions/dismissals of the employees have been done only in extreme circumstances for valid imputations of misconduct such as misappropriation of funds, tampering of the accounting documents, siphoning of Canteen stocks and insurbordination etc. In all such cases the charges have been proved beyond doubt by independent and impartial departmental enquiries and all the rules of natural justice have been followed. It is further stated that since the Unit-Run-Canteens employees are not Government servants, institution of the enquiry by the Government is not considered appropriate.

(c) Unit Run Canteens are Non-public Fund ventures and are not governed by rules applicable to Government organisations. Recruitment is carried out based on rules and conditions laid down by the local Unit authorities of such URCs. Hence appointment to these Canteens cannot be carried out through UPSC or SSC.

Criteria for the Appointment of CSD Employees

4598. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of employees of CSD canteens at AF Station, New Delhi and Noida separately, category-wise;

(b) the number of employees of CSD, AF Station, New Delhi appointed through selection by Staff Selection Commission; and

(c) what are the norms, qualifications, age limit etc. for appointment of persons from Manager level to lower level by the authorities in-charge of CSD canteen?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Details of the strength of the employees of the two Unit-Run-Canteens (URCs) which are operated as Non-Public Funds of the Air Force Station, New Delhi in Air Force Canteen are as follows:

Category of Employees	URC AFND	URC AFC Noida	Qualifications
Manager	1	1	Suitable Ex-service Officers preferably of Adm/accts branch
Dy. Manager	2	1	Post-graduate with minimum 10 years' experience
Supervisor	3	2	Graduates with 10 years' experience

Category of Employees	URC AFND	URC AFC Noida	Qualifications
UDC	11	1	Graduates with 5 years experience and departmental candidates after completing 15 year as LDC
LDC	26	—	Preferably graduates with minimum six months computer course.

(b) Nil

(c) QRs for appointment to various posts in the Unit-Run Canteens at AFND and Noida are given at (a) above.

सेना में की जाने वाली नियुक्ति में कटौती करना

4599. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने सेना में नियुक्ति में कटौती करने के संबंध में नीतिगत निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और सैनिकों की किन-किन श्रेणी में कटौती की जाएगी और क्या इस प्रकार की कटौती सेनाओं के तीनों अंगों में की जाएगी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इनकी अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी है और सैनिकों की संख्या में कटौती से कितनी राशि की बचत होगी; और

(घ) कटौती से हुई बचत राशि का क्या उपयोग किया जाएगा और देश की सुरक्षा पर कटौती का क्या असर होगा?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) सरकार ने सेना में सैनिकों की संख्या में कटौती करने का कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया है। तथापि, सेना ने दिनांक 31.3.1999 तक चरणवार तरीके से 50,000 सैनिकों की कम भर्ती करने की एक योजना तैयार की है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रस्तावित कम भर्ती केवल थलसेना के सभी सेनांगों और सेवाओं में की जा रही है। यह सेना के आधुनिकीकरण कार्यक्रम और सैनिकों के जीवन स्तर में सुधार लाने के वास्ते उपयोग करने हेतु वित्तीय बचत करने के उद्देश्य से किया जा रहा है।

सेना को आशा है कि इस कम भर्ती से वित्तीय वर्ष 1997-98 से 2001-2002 के दौरान 1000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की बचत होगी। कम भर्ती किए जाने संबंधी इस योजना को तैयार करते समय सेना द्वारा सेना की युद्धक तैयारी और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सहित सभी पहलुओं पर विचार किया गया है।

Closure of Srinagar Airport

4600. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item "Civil Aviation, Defence face-off closes Srinagar Airport" published in the 'Times of India' dated June 19, 1998; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Srinagar airport has been closed for aircraft operations and these operations are being conducted to/from Awantipur airport since 8 June, 1998. Allowing aircraft operations during runway repairs was not a viable option because the repair time would have been prolonged which was considered inadvisable. Further, the navigational aids at Awantipur are considered adequate for safe aircraft operations.